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AFRC/BA, Robins AFB GA 31098-2252

First Edition 2003

Technical Sergeant Trimmings Featured on 'The Tonight Show'

By Airman 1st Class Dandrick Glenn

Band of the United States Air Force Reserve

Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Trimmings, trumpeter and musical director of the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve Jazz Ensemble, performed in a special military salute on "The Tonight Show." During his performance, he unveiled his specialty- playing two trumpets at the same time. Although this was his national debut, Trimmings has shown this peculiar talent for a long time. "I was clowning around in high school," said the Brunswick, GA. native. "I was showing off and stuck two trumpets up there and realized I could do it. So it has followed me over the years." A 1980 graduate of Glynn Academy in Brunswick and 1984 graduate of Valdosta State University, Trimmings has displayed this ability during numerous Air Force Reserve Band performances. The producers of "The Tonight Show" discovered a photo of Trimmings during one of these performances and contacted him about showing his talent on this military special.

The show featured Trimmings performing with Kevin Eubanks and the show's band as part of a military "unusual talent show."

The show aired Thanksgiving night in the U.S. and was broadcast abroad on the Armed Forces Network. "The 'Tonight Show' band was the epitome of professionalism," Trimmings said. "Like the military, they were very time-oriented and knew their job. They gave me exactly what I wanted." He also enjoyed meeting the show's host Jay Leno and the personnel from all branches of the armed forces. "Seeing everyone proudly wearing the uniform and being excited about the show made me feel at ease before going on stage," Trimmings said. "When I walked out in front of the cameras, I was extremely proud to be representing the Air Force."

Sergeant Trimmings is the Director of Current Operations for the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve and the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the Ceremonial Band. He also performs as vocalist for the Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble. He was recently awarded Bandsman Noncommissioned Officer of the Year 2002 by Air Force Public Affairs. Trimmings devotes much of his spare time to help young musicians as a clinician and adjudicator throughout Middle Georgia.



Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Trimmings displays his musical talents during an Armed Services Salute for 'The Tonight Show' (Air Force Photo)

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World-renowned Clarinetist, Offers Guidance, Gets Glimpse of Military Life



Chicago Symphony clarinetist John Yeh coaches the Woodwind Quintet. Yeh also rehearsed with the Concert Band during his three days visit. (Photo by Chief Master Sgt. Roger Ferrell)

By Senior Airman Rebecca Collins
Band of the United States Air Force Reserve

Grammy-award winning clarinetist John Bruce Yeh inspired members of the Band of the Air Force Reserve, where he served as guest clinician in September. Coaching sessions were given to the Woodwind Quintet as well as the Concert Band's woodwind and clarinet sections. Yeh also participated in two Concert Band rehearsals, observing, conducting, and sitting in with the band.

Attending a Dixie Express practice session, Yeh was thrilled by the traditional jazz combo's upbeat music, describing it as "a lot of fun."

Pipe Major Master Sgt. Scott Gunn delighted the guest conductor with a bagpipe lesson, during which all present agreed that Yeh had a natural ability to play the difficult instrument.

The clarinet section joined with their families to introduce him to local Southern cuisine, entertaining Yeh with an old-fashioned barbecue and culminating his culinary experience with a family-style meal.

A native of Los Angeles, Yeh has been a member of the Chicago

Symphony Orchestra since 1977. He joined the orchestra at the age of 19 as Solo Bass Clarinetist and was appointed Assistant Principal and Solo E-flat Clarinetist two years later by Sir Georg Solti.

As founder and director of the chamber ensemble Chicago Pro Musica, Yeh was presented the 1986 Grammy for "Best New Classical Artist," the only time in the history of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences has awarded in that category. Yeh's numerous recordings of both solo and ensemble works are considered the world over to be the quintessence of modern clarinet playing.



Chicago Symphony clarinetist John Yeh learns a new instrument while serving as a guest clinician for the Band of the Air Force Reserve. (Photo by Chief Master Sgt. Roger Ferrell)

Operation Seasons Greetings 2002

By Airman 1st Class Dandrick Glenn
Band of the United States Air Force Reserve

Country music star Jamie O'Neal and Grammy nominated Restless Heart thrilled troops overseas as they joined members of the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve and the United States Air Forces in Europe Band (USAFE) for Operation Seasons Greetings (OSG) 2002, in Europe.

Jamie O'Neal hits "When I think of Angels" and "There is No Arizona," skyrocketed to number one taking her first album, "Shiver," to gold status.

The band Restless Heart produced five gold albums, with seven number one singles in a row. The popular group has also received more than a dozen Grammy, Country Music Association, and Academy of Country Music award nominations. In 1996 Restless Heart disbanded allowing members to pursue solo careers, with OSG 2002 giving them their first major tour since re-uniting.

This 14 day tour included stops in Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom, and Turkey, gave Jamie O'Neal and Restless Heart their first performance tour overseas for American troops. "The guest artists were great," said

Tech. Sgt. Craig Stevens, a tour producer coordinator and keyboard player with the USAF Reserve Band. "It was fun to watch them perform every night at a consistent level with lots of energy."

During the tour, American troops and their children received gifts, cards, games, and letters from home. Pilots stationed at Incirlick Air Base, Turkey were so impressed with letters and gifts given by students from Warner Robins, Georgia, that they decided to send their school a United States flag which was flown over the no-fly zone.

OSG 2002 had something for everyone, according to tour producer Dave Ballengee of the USAF Reserve Band. "This was a chance to showcase the talent of member of the USAFE Band, the Band of the Air Force Reserve, and bring top celebrity entertainment to our service members and their families," Ballengee said. "It was an incredible show!"



For the first time, Country music's Jaime O'Neal entertains troops stationed overseas for Operation Seasons Greetings. (Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Sean Houlihan)



Restless Heart entertains troops overseas for Operation Seasons Greetings. (Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Sean Houlihan)



OcTUBAfest 2002

By Staff Sgt. Charles Anderson
Band of the United States Air Force Reserve

ROBINS AFB, Georgia – Mercer University of Macon, GA hosted a series of five low brass concerts to celebrate *OcTUBAfest 2002*. As Principal Tubist Staff Sgt. Bill Granger worked with Mercer's Music Department to coordinate appearances by soloists and ensembles from the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve.

"These concerts are an excellent opportunity for the Mercer students and the community to hear top quality performers," said Staff Sgt. Granger. "It's a great way to strengthen the reputation of the Air Force Band program in the minds of our future musical leaders, which will in turn help recruiting."

The series featured concerts by Dixie Express and Bluesin' Tubas, and recitals by Senior Airman John Caputo, Senior Airman Mike Andrew, and Staff Sgt. Granger. Guest artist Adam Frey, international soloist and long time friend of the band, also presented a recital.

"Recitals give us the opportunity to showcase the level of individual talent in the band," said Senior Airman Caputo, principal euphonium player in the Concert Band, and a graduate of Duquesne and the University of Michigan. "With so many great musicians in the band, sometimes the public doesn't see that a single person can be just as strong as the entire group while holding up musical expression for an entire concert. Also, it allows the soloist to participate in all the aspects of preparing a performance – programming, scheduling, rehearsing, scripting – and provides a venue where we can really shine."

Harvey Phillips, Distinguished Professor of Music Emeritus at Indiana University, founded *OcTUBAfest* in the early 1970's to help promote the tuba as a viable solo instrument. Hosted each year by universities, colleges, conservatories, and schools of music, this exceptional program has become a national, as well as an international event.



Staff Sgt. Granger, Staff Sgt. Anderson, Senior Airman Andrew, and Senior Airman John Caputo perform together as Bluesin'Tubas. (USAF Photo)

Band Premieres New Composition

By Staff Sgt. Charles Anderson
Band of the United States Air Force Reserve

ROBINS AFB, Georgia – The Band of the United States Air Force Reserve premiered a new work by Airman 1st Class Shane Stanke on the September 2002 tour of Georgia and Alabama. *Tribute*, written to honor the victims and heroes of 9/11, is Airman Stanke's first composition as an Air Force member, and also her first work for large ensemble.

"After watching the news coverage, I felt compelled to write this," she said. "The combination of conflicting emotions – the sorrow I felt for those who were lost, and the hope inspired by the immediate response of the Fire Department, the Police, and all the volunteers – I needed to do something."

Airman Stanke divided this work into sections beginning with a contemplative and mournful melody describing the sorrow and shock everyone felt on that day. "The exuberant, rhythmic drive of the second part celebrates the heroic acts of proud Americans," she said. "The work closes with thematic material from both sections interwoven with the melody to *God Bless America*."

The music was accompanied by a 7-minute video presentation. AFRC VideoGraphics assembled footage of the events surrounding the World Trade Center bombings, including images of our world leaders, the prayer services, and the volunteers. "The music with video captured the spirit of what we all felt that day," said Airman Stanke.

Airman Stanke, a native of Littleton, Colorado, studied composition with John McLaird at the University of Northern Colorado. There she earned her Bachelor of Music degree in Theory and Composition.



Reserve Band Honors Tuskegee Airmen In Dedication Ceremony

By Airman 1st Class Dandrick Glenn
Band of the United States Air Force Reserve
Moton Field– Hanger 1 Tuskegee, Alabama

Tuskegee Airmen, WWII veterans who excelled in combat missions, were honored in August as the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve performed for the Tuskegee Airman National Historic Site's dedication ceremony. Master Sgt. Tracey Wright of the Air Force's premiere jazz ensemble, Airman of Note, was featured as vocalist for this distinguished occasion. "Our nation is a better place for their part in fighting discrimination, said Brig. Gen. Scott Mayes, commander of the Alabama Air National Guard. "I salute the warrior– the patriots– the Tuskegee Airmen." Mayes, a fighter pilot, was amazed by their combat record of 251 enemy aircraft destroyed without losing a single American bomber. "One hundred percent success," Mayes said. "It doesn't get any better than that."



**Photo provided by the Museum of Aviation,
Robins AFB, Georgia**

The Band of the United States Air Force Reserve not only provided the ceremonial music for the event, in addition to specially prepared music which is proprietary to the Tuskegee Airmen and Moton Field. Like many military combat units, the Tuskegee Airmen had made up their own special music which was instrumental in maintaining their morale. The AFRC Band presented an excerpt of the "Fighting 99th" and the "Bronze Airmen," march music used by the 99th Training Squadron and the Tuskegee Army Air Field.

Chief Master Sgt. Roger Ferrell, band leader for the ceremony, said, "When the special selections were announced, you could hear the expressions of surprise from the former pilots and crew. They were surprised to say the least that others were aware of their special unit music and the someone would take the time to prepare those selections in their honor. Actually, we were ones honored to be able to present that music to such a group of distinguished aviators, who were influential in changing both the direction of the war effort and the course of race relations in our own country to the better."

The mission of the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve is to provide musical support for Air Force and Air Force Reserve recruiting programs; official military functions and ceremonies; troops morale; esprit de corps, and personal retention at Air Force installation; and Air Force Department of Defense (DoD) community relations programs.

For more information about the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve, log on to: www.afrc.af.mil/hq/band, or call (478) 327-0555

For more information about careers in the United States Air Force Reserve, log on to: www.afreserve.com, or call (800) 257-1212

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